MEMORANDUM TO CONGRESSMAN BEN RAY LUJAN

11/12/2025
To: Congressman Ben Ray Lujan
Fr: Johana Borjas, DCCC National Finance Assistant, (203) 943-1714c
Dt: Tuesday, October 1, 2013
Re: DCCC Latino Council Breakfast & Political Update hosted by Congressman Henry Cuellar & Congressman Ben Ray Lujan in Washington, DC

Date: Tuesday, October 1, 2013

Breakfast: 8:00am-9:00am

Location: DCCC
The Wasserman Room
430 South Capitol Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003

Location Contact: Johana Borjas, (203) 943-1714c

Staff: Missy Kurek, (315) 373-8560c

Attire: Business

Attendees: Members of Congress: 9
General Breakfast Guests: 14

Members and VIP's in attendance:

Chairman Steve Israel, *confirmed*
Congressman Xavier Becerra, *confirmed*
Congressman Tony Cardenas, *confirmed*
Congressman Henry Cuellar, *confirmed*
Congressman Pete Gallego, *confirmed*
Congressman Ben Ray Lujan, *confirmed*
Congresswoman Michelle Lujan Grisham, *confirmed*
Congressman Juan Vargas, *confirmed*
Amanda Renteria, Candidate CA-21, *confirmed*

Event Hosts: Congressman Henry Cuellar & Congressman Ben Ray Lujan

Background: This is the kick-off event for the DCCC Latino Council event organized by Congressman Henry Cuellar and Congressman Ben Ray Lujan in Washington, DC. The event will take place at the DCCC in the Wasserman Room. This is the first event with the Latino community in Washington, DC, and seven

of the democratic Congressional Hispanic Caucus will be in attendance. Congressman Cuellar and Congressman Lujan, the DCCC Latino Council Co-Chairs, have been instrumental in the organization of this event and the DCCC Latino Council. One planning meeting was held in Washington, DC on June 17, 2013.
Ticket level for this event is: $500/per person,

Member Participation in Today's Event:

- Congressman Henry Cuellar - Made phone calls but did not result in contributions
- Congressman Ben Ray Lujan – Made phone calls but did not result in contributions

Event Set Up:

Event Timeline:

8:00am Event begins

8:10am Congressman Cuellar and Congressman Lujan welcome guests and introduce YOU followed by a power point presentation

8:30am YOU and the rest of the CHC members open up the floor for Q&A

8:40am YOU introduces Leader Pelosi upon her arrival

9:00am Event concludes

Host Bios:

Congressman Cuellar currently serves as Co-Chair of the DCCC's Latino Council.

Congressman Cuellar was born as one of eight children to migrant farm workers in Laredo. After earning his associate's degree from Laredo Community College, he enrolled in Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., where he graduated Cum Laude. When he returned to Texas, Congressman Cuellar completed a master's degree in International Trade at Texas A&M International University and earned a law degree and Ph.D. in Government from the University of Texas at Austin. In 1981, Congressman Cuellar opened his own law firm and became a licensed customs broker in 1983. He worked at his beloved alma mater, TAMIU, as an Adjunct Professor for International Commercial Law from 1984 to 1986.

In 2005, Congressman Cuellar became the first Laredoan in over 20 years elected to represent the 28th District of Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives. He currently serves on the House Appropriations Committee and the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security and House

Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs. Congressman Cuellar has been a legislative champion for government transparency and accountability, authoring and passing legislation in Congress to reform federal agency procedures and to eliminate bureaucratic redundancy. He serves as Vice Chair of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee, where he guides policy and legislation in Congress through his leadership role.

As Chairman and founder of the bi-partisan House Pro-Trade Caucus, Congressman Cuellar is widely regarded as a national trade expert in Washington D.C. Across Texas, businesses and communities alike applaud his support for the Central American Free Trade Agreement and the North American Free Trade Agreement. As the largest exporter of goods in the nation, Texas currently grosses more than $100 billion a year by conducting trade with other nations.

Congressman Cuellar and his wife, Imelda, reside in Laredo, Texas with their two daughters, Christy (20) and Catie (16).

Congressman Lujan currently serves as Co-Chair of the DCCC's Latino

Council.

Born and raised in New Mexico, Rep. Ben Ray Luján grew up in Nambe, a small farming community north of Santa Fe bordered by the pueblos of Nambe and Pojoaque. There he learned the time-honored traditions and values of New Mexico.

Since he was sworn into Congress, Rep. Luján has worked to get our economy back on track, reform health insurance, build a clean energy economy, and stand up for consumers.

Rep. Luján has stood up for New Mexicans who are struggling in these difficult economic times by voting to provide tax cuts for families and small businesses, working to reform our broken health insurance system, and fighting to reform Wall Street. He has worked for the people of New Mexico's 3rd Congressional District, passing legislation that invests in scientific research at New Mexico's national laboratories, fighting for Tribal Colleges and Universities and Hispanic Serving Institutions in the America COMPETES Act, and advocating for tribal communities by improving infrastructure, education, and health care.

Rep. Luján represents his diverse district by participating in a variety of Caucuses including the Congressional Progressive Caucus, the Natural Gas Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and the Native American Caucus.

Rep. Luján sits on the Energy and Commerce Committee, which enables him to serve the many needs of the district which spans from San Juan County in the Northwest to Roosevelt County in the Southeast – and the treasured lands in between.

As a member of Communications and Technology Subcommittee, Rep. Luján is working to expand broadband access in rural communities and see that new opportunities are created through increased access to the latest technological advances. With its broad jurisdiction, his position on the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee provides Luján an opportunity to play a role in every aspect of the committee's work, especially in the oversight of the Department of Energy and the national laboratories.

At the beginning of the 112th Congress, Rep. Luján, together with co-chair Frank Wolf of Virginia, founded the bipartisan Technology Transfer Caucus to bring together members who share the goal of strengthening our economy by helping move technological innovations that are occurring at New Mexico's national labs and universities into the marketplace. Luján will also serve as a co-chair of the bipartisan National Labs Caucus, which will raise awareness about the importance of the national labs to the long-term economic vitality and security of the nation.

At the beginning of the 113th Congress, Rep. Luján was appointed to the House Democratic Leadership as a Chief Deputy Whip. In this new position, he will promote the Democratic agenda to create jobs and build a brighter future for all Americans. Luján is also the 1st Vice Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. His work in Congress to ensure that the Hispanic community is included in the emerging clean energy economy earned him the recognition of one of Hispanic Business Magazine's 100 Most Influential Hispanics.

Prior to his election to Congress, Rep. Luján served as the Chairman of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission. As a Commissioner, Rep. Luján worked with his colleagues to develop a renewable portfolio standard to increase renewable energy production by New Mexico utilities to 20 percent of their total production by 2020 and to diversify utilities' renewable portfolios to include solar energy. On behalf of the state of New Mexico, Rep. Luján joined his fellow Commissioners from California, Oregon, and Washington to sign onto the Joint Action Framework on Climate Change to create regional solutions to climate change.

With the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission, Rep. Luján advocated for first responders. He worked with firefighters, the state legislature, and other officials to overhaul the New Mexico Fire Fund so that all distributions from the fund would go to improving fire services in New Mexico.

Rep. Luján also worked to improve health care as a member of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission by investigating the denial practices of the health insurance industry. The investigation led to the development of legislation that expanded access to insurance and closed loopholes the industry had been using to unfairly deny medical claims and void policies. Prior to that, he served as New Mexico Cultural Affairs Department's director of administrative services and chief financial officer.

Rep. Luján earned his Bachelor's degree from New Mexico Highlands University in Business Administration.

Member Bio and Dues Update:

Congressman Xavier Becerra

First elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1992, Representative Xavier Becerra serves as Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, is a member of the powerful Committee on Ways And Means and is Ranking Member of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security.

His committee is responsible for formulating our nation's tax, Social Security, Medicare, trade and income security laws. As Chairman of the Democratic Caucus, Rep. Becerra wields a strong voice in House Democratic leadership, helping to set priorities and drive the legislative decision making process.

He has dedicated himself to promoting issues affecting industries critical to the economic vitality of the Southern California region such as health care, high technology, entertainment, and stimulating free, yet fair, trade.

The first Latino to serve on the Ways and Means Committee, Congressman Becerra has used his position to increase opportunities for working families, to improve the Social Security program for women and minorities, to combat poverty among the working poor, and to strengthen Medicare and ensure its long-term viability. He currently serves on the Oversight and Social Security Subcommittees. In 2010, Congressman Becerra served on the bipartisan National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform.

Congressman Becerra is a member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) where he served as Chair during the 105th Congress (1997-98). The Congressman is also a member of the Executive Comittee of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus.

In addition to his Congressional duties, Congressman Becerra enjoys his service as a board member for several respected institutions, including the Close Up Foundation, the nation's largest youth civic education organization that brings more than 25,000 students and teachers to Washington, D.C., annually; and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, which provides scholarships and internship opportunities for the next generation of Latino leaders.

Congressman Becerra also serves on the Smithsonian Board of Regents, a distinguished panel of 17 men and women who oversee the Smithsonian Institution's expansive collection. In 2011, he was appointed to serve on the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture Council.

Prior to his election to Congress, Congressman Becerra served one term in the California Legislature as the representative of the 59th Assembly District in Los

Angeles County. He is a former Deputy Attorney General with the California Department of Justice. The congressman began his legal career in 1984 working in a legal services office representing the mentally ill.

Congressman Becerra is the son of working-class parents and was the first in his family to graduate from college. His mother was born in Jalisco, Mexico and immigrated to the United States after marrying his father. In 1980, Congressman Becerra earned his Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Stanford University. He was awarded his Juris Doctorate from Stanford Law School in 1984. Congressman Becerra is married to Dr. Carolina Reyes. They are the proud parents of three daughters: Clarisa, Olivia and Natalia.

Congressman Tony Cardenas was raised by hard-working immigrant parents and brought up with simple ideals – that integrity and dedication were the keys to success. These are the qualities that he has brought to his 16 year career as a public servant for the people of the North East San Fernando Valley, and that he continues to offer today as a United States Congressman.

Cárdenas was first elected to the California State Assembly in 1996. He went on to serve three terms in the assembly and was later elected to the Los Angeles City Council, in 2003. An engineering degree, and a business background, prepared him for the day-to-day duties of an elected official and his experience has allowed him to find practical and realistic solutions to difficult problems. Born in Pacoima, Cárdenas was raised with ten brothers and sisters and still resides in the San Fernando Valley with his wife, Norma, and their children.

As a state legislator, Cárdenas focused on ensuring that his community received the programs and services they needed, while he made sure the state's finances were managed responsibly. As Chair of the State Assembly's powerful Budget Committee, Cárdenas oversaw the most robust reserve budget in the history of California. His state reforms brought 78,000 new classroom seats to Los Angeles, as well as 15 universal playgrounds throughout the city. He also secured more than $650 million for new school construction in Los Angeles to help relieve overcrowded classrooms.

It was in the Assembly, that Cárdenas began working on juvenile justice issues. His state legislation included the overhaul of California's gang prevention and intervention programs, with the passage of the Schiff-Cárdenas Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act. He brought his passion for juvenile justice to the Los Angeles City Council. As Chair of the City's Ad Hoc Committee on Gang Violence and Youth Development, Cardenas identified millions of dollars overlooked by the City to help keep kids off the streets, and reduced crime while reducing expenditures on crime abatement programs.

As Vice Chair of the City's Public Safety Committee, Cárdenas spearheaded the most comprehensive gang intervention model in the country. The Community-Based Gang Intervention Model standardized and defined the methods used by gang intervention workers to help stop violence in some of LA's most dangerous neighborhoods.

In 2012, Cárdenas also passed landmark amendments to the City's daytime curfew ordinance. The new policy eliminated costly fines, of up to $500 that students were facing. It also reduced lengthy court visits for parents and students, and gave students the opportunity to do community service to eliminate their citations.

As an animal rights advocate, Cárdenas also created Los Angeles' first Animal Cruelty Task Force which, for the first time, targeted animal abuse city-wide. One of the task force's first felony convictions put a known gang member away for three years for abusing a family pet. Cárdenas also co-authored the City's mandatory spay/neuter ordinance, helping Los Angeles become the largest no-kill city in the country. Cárdenas also launched the city's first Task Force on Human Trafficking and Child Prostitution, addressing an often overlooked crime. The U.S. Department of Justice estimates that 14,000 to 18,000 people are trafficked into the country annually in Los Angeles.

Attacking persistent blight in his community, Cárdenas launched district and city-wide efforts to improve the environment. Community clean-ups in his district collected more than 56,000 tons of trash and bulky items during his tenure and Cárdenas added more than 100 acres of new park. Cárdenas demanded that L.A.'s Department of Water and Power establish its Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard, laying out specific goals and timelines for their use of clean energy. And he consistently drafted and supported green energy legislation including his plan to convert the City's taxi fleet to fuel efficient vehicles.

After 16 years in public office, Cárdenas has made history, becoming the first Latino elected to represent the San Fernando Valley in our United States Congress. He will continue his passionate commitment to the community in this new capacity. He currently sits on the House of Representatives Natural Resources and Budget, and Oversight and Government Reform committees.
Congressman Cardenas has paid $25,000 in dues this year.

DCCC Frontline Member Congressman Pete Gallego:

The son of a World War II veteran and a state employee, Congressman Gallego was born in the West Texas town of Alpine where he attended local public schools and worked in his family`s restaurant. He graduated from his hometown college, Sul Ross State University, in only two years while balancing three jobs. He went on to earn a degree from The University of Texas School of Law. He became an assistant attorney general before returning home to serve as a felony prosecutor.

Congressman Gallego serves on the House Armed Services Committee, of particular significance because of the large military presence in Texas. The Armed Services Committee has jurisdiction over defense policy, ongoing military operations, the organization and reform of the Department of Defense and Department of Energy, counter-drug programs, acquisition and industrial base policy, technology transfer and export controls, joint interoperability, the

Cooperative Threat Reduction program, Department of Energy nonproliferation programs, and detainee affairs and policy. Prior to serving in Congress, Gallego served the constituents of House District 74 in the Texas House of Representatives, to which he was elected at just 28 years old.

In the State Legislature, Gallego was an expert in appropriations, law enforcement, criminal justice, campaign finance and victims' rights. He served on the joint House/Senate conference committee on the state budget for five consecutive sessions from 1993 to 2001. He has received numerous awards, including the Advocate for Justice award from a coalition of Texas victims' groups and the Star of Texas public service award by Common Cause of Texas. He was selected as one of Texas Monthly's Ten Best legislators. Gallego also serve as chair of the Mexican-American Legislative Caucus (MALC), a group of 43 House members who are of Mexican-American descent or who serve a significant Mexican-American constituency for 8 years.

Pete and his wife, Maria Elena, are raising their eight year old son, Nicolas.

Congresswoman Michelle Lujan Grisham:

Michelle Lujan Grisham was elected to 113th Congress in New Mexico’s First District in November 2012.

Public service comes easily to Michelle, a twelfth generation New Mexican who has dedicated her life to serving her community, fighting for seniors and building an economy that works for all New Mexicans. Born in Los Alamos and raised in Santa Fe, Michelle graduated from St. Michael’s High School, and then came to Albuquerque to attend the University of New Mexico for both undergraduate and law school. Her grandfather Eugene Lujan was the first Hispanic Chief Justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court. Her mother Sonja cared for Michelle and her disabled sister and now lives with Michelle in Albuquerque’s North Valley. Michelle’s father, Buddy Lujan, served his Santa Fe community as a dentist, often providing dental care free of charge so that all of Santa Fe’s residents could be provided services that were necessary for their well-being.

As a young attorney she worked for the Lawyer Referral for the Elderly Program of the State Bar of New Mexico. Michelle fought to protect seniors from scam artists, safeguard them from abuse and neglect, and helped them to remain in their homes. Because of her tireless work on behalf of seniors, four-term Governor Bruce King to appointed her to head the New Mexico State Agency on Aging; she served as the state’s first Secretary of Aging and Long Term Services when the department was elevated to a cabinet position.

As head of the State Agency on Aging under both Democratic and Republican administrations, Michelle implemented a system of undercover investigations

while she herself went undercover to expose patient abuse and facility mismanagement happening in nursing facilities.

In 2004, Michelle was asked to head the New Mexico Department of Health, where she managed over 3,800 employees and a $440 million budget. During her tenure, she fought to require public health facilities to meet the same high standards as private sector facilities. She led the fight to ban the sale of junk food in schools and she pushed to make sure every child in New Mexico had access to primary health care.

Elected in 2010 as a Bernalillo County Commissioner she hit the ground running, leading efforts to bring more transparency and accountability to county government and sponsoring new ethics standards for county officeholders, contractors, and staff.

Michelle served as President and co-founder of the Delta Consulting Group, a small business that oversees New Mexico's Health Insurance Pool and helps to provide access to health insurance coverage to New Mexico residents who have been denied health insurance.

Michelle was married to her college sweetheart, Greg, for 22 years before his sudden passing in 2004, leaving Michelle as a newly single mother of two girls, Taylor and Erin.

Michelle serves on the House Committee on Agriculture, the House Committee on the Budget and the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform in the 113th Congress.

Congressman Juan Vargas:

Congressman Juan Vargas was raised on a chicken ranch in National City, a city in California's 51st District. He is one of ten children, born to his parents, Tomas and Celina Vargas on March 7, 1961. His father, Tomas, immigrated to the United States from Mexico in the late 1940s as part of the Bracero Program which brought millions of Mexican guest workers to the United States on short-term, primarily agricultural labor contracts, as part of a series of bi-lateral agreements between Mexico and the United States. Through the Bracero Program, Tomas became a legal resident and Juan's mother, Celina, went on to earn her U.S. Citizenship.

Taught the value of hard work by his parents, Juan attained impressive academic credentials. He attended the University of San Diego on scholarship, graduated Magna Cum Laude receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science in 1983. In 1987, Juan earned a Master of Humanities from Fordham University in New York City and in 1991 earned a Juris Doctorate from Harvard Law School, where he was classmates with President Barack Obama.

As a young adult, Juan entered the Jesuits, a Catholic religious order, where he worked with disadvantaged communities, including orphaned children and

internally displaced people in the jungles of El Salvador. For years, his work with the Jesuits focused on the health and welfare of children and issues of social justice.

Juan left the Jesuits in order to pursue family life. Two years later, he married Adrienne D'Ascoli and they returned to San Diego where Juan worked as an attorney with the law firm of Luce, Forward, Hamilton and Scripps. Although he enjoyed the practice of law, Juan decided to contribute to his southern San Diego community as a public official.

Juan was elected to the San Diego City Council on February 16, 1993. On the Council, he assumed a leadership role in planning, funding, and advocating for public safety, municipal infrastructure and schools. During his eight-year tenure on the San Diego City Council Juan helped establish community-based policing, which has become a national model, fought tobacco advertising directed at children, and helped create the City of San Diego' s 6-to-6 after-school program. He also sponsored a graffiti and home rehabilitation program, known as Operation Restore, which employed homeless individuals in an effort to improve and revitalize blighted homes and neighborhoods in San Diego's urban core.

When President Bill Clinton ordered an invasion of Kosovo in 1999 to end a terrifying regime of “ethnic cleansing,” Juan and Adrienne answered the President’s call to duty and took in a refugee Kosovar family into their home for nearly two years. The family is now thriving and independent, residing in the city of El Cajon.

In 2000, Juan was elected by a huge margin to the California State Assembly. As the State Representative to the 79th Assembly District, Juan represented the southern portion of San Diego, the western portion of Chula Vista, and the cities of Coronado, Imperial Beach, and National City. In his first year as a State Legislator, Juan was appointed Assistant Majority Leader.

Following the end of his term the State Assembly in 2006, Juan went on to serve as Vice President of External Affairs for Safeco Insurance and Vice President of Corporate Legal for Liberty Mutual Group. Both are home, auto, and small business insurance companies and, under these roles, he helped bring jobs to Southern California communities.

In 2010, Juan answered the call to return to public service and was elected to the California State Senate. He represented the 40th California State Senate District, which includes the southern portion of San Diego County, portions of Riverside County, all of Imperial County and California’s entire US/Mexico border.

As a State Senator, Juan worked tirelessly to ensure public safety and protect services to the poor and elderly. He was Chairman of the Banking and Financial Institutions Committee and served on the following committees: Education; Business, Professions and Economic Development; Public Employment and Retirement; Agriculture; the Joint Committee on Rules; and the Select

Committee on Recovery, Reform and Re-Alignment.

Juan was elected to the United States Congress in 2012 with over 70 percent of the vote, the highest in both San Diego and Imperial counties. He represents California's 51st Congressional District which includes portions of San Diego County, all of Imperial County, and the entire U.S. - Mexico Border in California.

In Congress, he has been appointed to serve on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, including the Subcommittee on Middle East and North Africa and the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade; the Committee on Agriculture, including the Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management, and the Subcommittee on Horticulture, Research, Biotechnology and Foreign Agriculture; and the Committee on House Administration.

Juan lives in San Diego with his wife, Adrienne, an executive at the San Diego Foundation, and his daughters, Rosa and Helena.

Amanda Renteria, Candidate, CA-21:

Amanda Renteria's parents emigrated from central Mexico in the 1960s to work as fruit pickers in California.They settled in the rural town of Woodlake and raised three daughters. When Renteria, the 2 middle child, was accepted to Stanford University and signed on with the elite school's basketball team, her small high school was so thrilled that an announcement was made over the intercom system.
Renteria is now a graduate of Stanford University and Harvard Business School.

After graduating from Harvard, she worked in the private sector at Goldman Sachs before returning to California's central valley and working as a high school math teacher and basketball coach. She then worked for the city of San Jose before moving to Washington. From her humble beginnings Renteria would go on to serve as Chief of Staff to Senator Stabenow. Amanda Renteria began working in Senator Stabenow's office in 2006 as a Legislative Assistant. She quickly became an integral member of the staff and went on to serve as legislative director and then, in 2008, became chief of staff.
Renteria and her husband, Pat, have two young sons Diego and T.J.